

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original): A method of cleansing a filter, comprising;

providing a source of purified water; and

exposing the filter to the purified water.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the filter includes a filter cartridge.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the purified water includes water treated by a reverse osmosis, a steam distillation or a deionization process.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the purified water includes water having a lower total dissolved solids reading than water being filtered.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least fifty percent less than water being filtered.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least eighty percent less than water being filtered.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least ninety five percent less than water being filtered.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising;

backflushing the filter with the purified water.

Claims 9-35 (canceled).

Claim 36 (original): A method for backflushing a filter, comprising;

- a. switching an inlet valve, a drain valve and a flush valve in a filtered flowpath from a primary flowpath used for dispensing operations to a secondary flowpath, therein allowing purified water into the filtered flowpath;
- b. flowing the purified water in the secondary flowpath, wherein the secondary flowpath allows the purified water to flow backwards through the filter for a predetermined interval to remove or dissolve filtered media or unclog a filter in the primary flowpath; and
- c. switching the inlet valve, the drain valve and the flush valve from the secondary flowpath to the primary flowpath to resume dispensing operations.

Claim 37 (original): The method for backflushing a filter as recited in claim 36, further comprising;

- d. Repeating steps a.–c. to provide a continued cleansing of the filter medium.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): The method of claim 36, wherein the purified water includes water treated by a reverse osmosis, a steam distillation or a deionization process.

Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 36, wherein the purified water includes water having a lower total dissolved solids reading than water being filtered.

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 36, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least fifty percent less than water being filtered.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): The method of claim 36, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least eighty percent less than water being filtered.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): The method of claim 36, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least ninety five percent less than water being filtered.